

1. the genitalic differences are too strong for intra-specific variation;
2. the complete disappearance of the orange discal bands is not correlated with the other, admittedly minor, differences from *H. eleala*;
3. the complex anal eye-spot and the red line stretching to the anal lobe and up the abdominal fold remain completely unaffected, and;
4. I have not seen anything similar in the thousand *Hypokopelates* and many thousand *Hypolycaena* Felder, having the same pattern, that I have seen in nature and collections. Most aberrations of this type, were it to be an aberration, tend to be of a recurring nature.

### Acknowledgements

This is paper number eight based on advance studies for the book *Butterflies of West Africa – origins, natural history, diversity, and conservation*. I am grateful to the Carlsberg Foundation and the Danish National Research Councils for support. I would like to thank John Boorman for access to his collection. The continued collaboration of the Natural History Museum, London is deeply appreciated.

### Reference

Stempffer, H. 1967. The genera of the African Lycaenidae (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *Bulletin of the British Museum, Natural History, (Entomology)*, supplement 10: 1-322.

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### *Epuraea thoracica* Tourn. (Col.: Nitidulidae) new to Kent

*Epuraea thoracica* Tourn. (= *oblonga* sensu Fowler) is a rare species with a restricted habitat, occurring under conifer bark probably always with bark-beetles (Scolytidae). Southern records are few, isolated, and mostly old; midland and northern ones are rather less scattered. The Scottish Highlands are its British headquarters; I took a single specimen at Aviemore in July 1938. The only records I can trace for a south-eastern county are Shirley (Rye) and Chobham (Champion), both Surrey localities.

I was therefore much surprised to find just lately that a male *Epuraea* taken by me at Shooters Hill near here (7.vii.1990) and carelessly passed at the time as *E. pusilla* (Ill.), was in fact a far more interesting find: an undoubted *E. thoracica*. Foremost among its specific characters are the very fine, shallow, and dense puncturation and, in the male, the *rather sharply angled* swelling at the inner apex of the mid-tibiae. The beetle was found under thin bark on a blown-down pine bough, in which were galleries of *Tomicus piniperda* (L.); the situation was at the top of a wooded slope with three or four mature Scots pines, forming part of what is now Oxleas Wood SSSI. The fallen limb was removed after a few weeks, when the small *Tomicus* brood had already died out.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.